

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 PM-04 INR-07 L-03 ACDA-07
NSAE-00 PA-01 SS-15 PRS-01 SP-02 USIA-06 TRSE-00
OIC-02 /061 W

-----010655Z 090816 /22

R 311048Z MAR 77
FM USMISSION NATO
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2554
SECDEF WASHDC
INFO ALL NATO CAPITALS
USNMR SHAPE
USCINCEUR
USLOSACLANT
CINCLANT
CSAF WASHDC

C O N F I D E N T I A L USNATO 1844

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: NATO, OCON, MILL, AWACS
SUBJECT: NATO AEW-NORWEGIAN POSITION

1. ON MARCH 30, NORWEGIAN DEPUTY DEFENSE ADVISOR VEDELD CALLED ON MISSION OFFICER TO EXPRESS NORWEGIAN CONCERN AND CONFUSION OVER THE NEXT STEPS IN THE NATO AEW PROGRAM. VEDELD SAID HE HAD JUST BEEN REQUESTED BY STATE SECRETARY FOR DEFENSE HOLST TO MAKE SOME INFORMAL CONTACTS HERE IN NATO HEADQUARTERS TO DETERMINE THE THINKING ON THIS MATTER. IF THE MINISTRY OF DEFENSE IS TO GET PARLIMENTARY APPROVAL FOR NORWEGIAN PARTICIPATION IN NATO AEW BY JULY 1, A PROPOSAL MUST BE PLACED ON THEIR AGENDA IN THE NEXT FEW WEEKS.

2. MISSION OFFICER EXPLAINED THAT IN OUR VIEW THE NEXT STEPS REALLY DEPEND ON THE UK POSITION ON THE PROGRAM. IF THE UK OPTS TO STAY WITH NATO AEW, THE PROPOSAL PRESENTED TO MINISTERS COULD FORM THE BASIS OF PRESENTATIONS
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TO PARLIAMENTS. ALSO THERE WILL PROBABLY BE A NEED FOR A FINANCIAL EXPERTS MEETING TO WORK ON DETAILS OF COST SHARING AND OTHER OPEN QUESTIONS. HOWEVER, IF THE UK ANNOUNCES FOR NIMROD, NATO WILL HAVE TO DEVELOP A NEW PROGRAM PROPOSAL WHICH COULD CAUSE FURTHER DELAYS IN THE SCHEDULE. MISSION OFFICER ALSO OBSERVED THAT AS THE NEXT FEW DAYS WILL BE CRITICAL TO THE PROGRAM, ANY ASSURANCES THAT NATIONS COULD COMMUNICATE TO MINISTER MULLEY WOULD BE HELPFUL.

3. VEDELD SAID IT WOULD BE A WHOLE NEW SITUATION IN OSLO IF A MIXED FORCE IS PROPOSED. ALL PREVIOUS PREPARATION HAS BEEN FOR A NATO-WIDE FORCE, AND A NEW EDUCATION PROCESS WOULD HAVE TO BE UNDERTAKEN TO GAIN ACCEPTANCE OF A MIXED FORCE.

4. COMMENT. VEDELD'S VISIT IS AN INDICATION OF NORWAYS'S POSITIVE ATTITUDE TOWARD NATO AEW AND ITS CONCERN THAT THE PROGRAM MAY BE IN JEOPARDY. VEDELD BELIEVES HIS GOVERNMENT WILL SUPPORT A COMMON PROGRAM, BUT HE HAS DOUBTS ABOUT A MIXED FORCE PROGRAM. END COMMENT.
STRAUSZ-HUPE

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 30-Aug-1999 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: n/a
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 31-Mar-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1977NATO01844
Document Source: ADS
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: 11652 GDS
Errors: n/a
Expiration:
Film Number: n/a
Format: TEL
From: NATO
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1977/newtext/t197703110/baaabcqt.tel
Line Count: 70
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE
Message ID: 8ba001b0-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION EUR
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 07-Mar-2005 12:00:00 am
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 2963973
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: NATO AEW-NORWEGIAN POSITION
TAGS: NATO, OCON, MILI, AWACS
To: STATE SECDEF MULTIPLE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odb://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/8ba001b0-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
22 May 2009
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009